# Worker Health and Safety in Emergency Response Katrina, Rita, Wilma

NIEHS Meeting March 8, 2006 Birmingham, Alabama

# **Brief History**

- WTC/Anthrax Responses
- NIOSH/RAND Report
- NIMS
- National Response Plan
- National Preparedness Goal

#### **Major Disasters are Different**

(According to the NIOSH/RAND Report)

- Number of People Affected
- Geographic Scale
- Varied/unknown/significant hazards
- Range of Capabilities Needed
- Influx of Convergent Organizations
- Damage to infrastructure
- Affects on Responder Organizations

All Workers/All Hazards

Public Health vs. Worker Health and Safety

We Are Part of a System Now

How do you ensure quality when everyone is in a hurry?

Managing WS&H Globally/
Providing Assistance Locally

How do we incorporate "All Workers?"